General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 February 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 64

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2014

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/69/484)*]

69/157. Rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child in their entirety, the most recent of which is resolution 68/147 of 18 December 2013, and in particular recognizing the importance of resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, in which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] and welcoming the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its adoption in 2014,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention,[2] and calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[3] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[4] the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[5] the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[6] the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[7] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[8] and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,[9]

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[2] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.
[3] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[5] Resolution 61/177, annex.
[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[7] Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[8] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[9] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

14-67605 (E)

Please recycle

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for all actions concerning children,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[10] of 2007, as well as the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014,[11]

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[12] the United Nations Millennium Declaration[13] and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[14] and recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[15] the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[16] the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,[17] the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,[18] the Declaration on the Right to Development,[19] the Declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, held in New York from 11 to 13 December 2007,[20] the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010,[21] the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[22] and the outcome document of the third Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and recalling the World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, in Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001 and in Rio de Janeiro from 25 to 28 November 2008,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly[23] and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in Assembly

---

[10] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[11] Resolution 69/2.

[12] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[13] Resolution 55/2.

[14] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[15] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[16] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[17] See resolution 2542 (XXIV).

[18] *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

[19] Resolution 41/128, annex.

[20] Resolution 62/88.

[21] Resolution 65/1.

[22] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[23] A/69/258.

resolution 68/147,[24] as well as the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,[25] the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict[26] and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[27] whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of the child,

Acknowledging the important role played by national governmental structures for children, including, where they exist, ministries and institutions in charge of child, family and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other national institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, in the best interests of the child, and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Noting with appreciation the work to promote and protect the rights of the child carried out by all relevant organs, bodies, entities and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, by relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations and by relevant regional organizations, where appropriate, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socioeconomic context,

Profoundly concerned also that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical, in an increasingly globalized environment, as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage, climate change, natural disasters, armed conflict, foreign occupation, displacement, violence, terrorism, abuse, trafficking in children and their organs, all forms of exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, neglect, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, gender inequality, disability and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Expressing deep concern that, despite the recognition of the right of the child to express his or her views freely on all matters affecting him or her, with his or her views given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, children are still seldom seriously consulted and involved in such matters owing to a

[24] A/69/260.

[25] A/69/264.

[26] A/69/212.

[27] A/69/262.

variety of constraints and impediments and that the full implementation of this right in many parts of the world has yet to be fully realized,

Deeply concerned that children disproportionately suffer the consequences of discrimination, exclusion, inequality and poverty,

Deeply concerned also that more than 6,300,000 children under the age of 5 die each year, mostly from preventable and treatable causes, owing to inadequate or lack of access to integrated and quality maternal, newborn and child health care and services, to early childbearing, as well as to health determinants, such as safe drinking water and sanitation, safe and adequate food and nutrition, and that mortality remains highest among children belonging to the poorest and most marginalized communities,

Recognizing that a strong focus is needed on poverty, deprivation and inequality to prevent and protect children from violence and to promote the resilience of children, their families and communities,

Recognizing also the large and growing number of migrant children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents or primary caregivers, and especially those who find themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents,

Taking into special consideration the situation of child refugees and child asylum seekers, in particular those unaccompanied or separated from their parents,

I

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto

1. *Welcomes* the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] the human rights treaty with the largest number of ratifications, and acknowledges that the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto[2] contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children;

2. *Recognizes* that, while progress has been made, many challenges remain, and that, in this regard, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on 20 November 2014, was an occasion for States to reflect on implementation gaps and to undertake additional measures to ensure that the rights of children are fully realized;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the entry into force on 14 April 2014 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure,[28] and encourages States to consider its accession, ratification and implementation;

4. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 1 to 10 of its resolution 68/147, and urges States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to or ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority and to implement them effectively and fully;

[28] Resolution 66/138, annex.

5. *Urges* States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;[12]

6. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, taking into account the adoption of its general comments, and its actions to follow up on its concluding observations on the implementation of the Convention and recommendations, and calls upon all States to strengthen their cooperation with the Committee, to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee, and to take into account its recommendations, observations and general comments on the implementation of the Convention;

II

Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children

Non-discrimination

7. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 11 to 14 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon States to ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights without discrimination of any kind;

8. *Notes with concern* the large number of children belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, migrant children, refugee or asylum-seeking children, internally displaced children, and children of indigenous origin who are victims of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stresses the need to incorporate special measures, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and respect for his or her views and the child's gender-specific needs, including children with special needs, in education programmes and programmes to combat these practices, and calls upon States to provide special support and to ensure equal access to services for those children;

9. *Urges* all States to respect and promote the right of girls and boys to express themselves freely, and their right to be heard, to ensure that their views are given due weight, in accordance with their age and maturity, in all matters affecting them, and to involve children, including children with special needs, in decision-making processes, taking into account the evolving capacities of children and the importance of involving children's organizations and child-led initiatives;

10. *Recognizes* that discrimination against any child on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the child, and expresses grave concern that children with disabilities face violations of their human rights, as well as discriminatory, attitudinal and environmental barriers to their participation and inclusion in society and in the community;

Registration, family relations, adoption and alternative care

11. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 15 to 19 of its resolution 68/147, and urges all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children in matters relating to registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care, and, in cases of international parental or familial child abduction, encourages States to engage in bilateral and, when appropriate, multilateral cooperation to resolve those

cases, and in this regard to consider accession to or ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction[29] and to facilitate, inter alia, the return of the child to the country in which he or she resided immediately before the removal or retention, while taking into consideration the principle of the best interests of the child;

Economic and social well-being of children

12. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 20 to 29 of its resolution 68/147, paragraphs 42 to 52 of its resolution 61/146 of 19 December 2006 on children and poverty and paragraphs 37 to 42 of its resolution 60/231 of 23 December 2005 on children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and calls upon all States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field and by implementing their previous commitments relating to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals, the right to education, including equal access to quality education, and measures to promote human rights education, including the safe and beneficial use of the Internet as a tool for the advancement of the child's social and educational well-being, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including efforts to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age and to address the situation of children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and, through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking water and sanitation, the right to food for all and the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing and clothing;

13. *Calls upon* all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts towards poverty eradication and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach based on the rights and well-being of children;

14. *Strongly underlines* the importance of giving due consideration to the inclusion of the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of children in the post-2015 development agenda, including by ending extreme poverty, reducing inequalities and eliminating all forms of violence against children, including harmful practices;

Child labour

15. *Calls upon* all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective eradication of child labour that is likely to be hazardous, to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, to eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour and to promote education as a key strategy in this regard;

[29] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1343, No. 22514.

16. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying both the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)[30] and the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)[31] of the International Labour Organization;

17. *Recognizes* that poverty and social exclusion, labour mobility, discrimination and lack of adequate social protection and educational opportunity as well as lack of birth registrations all influence child labour;

Prevention and elimination of violence against children

18. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 39 of its resolution 68/147 and paragraphs 47 to 62 of its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007 on the elimination of violence against children, condemns all forms of violence against children, and urges all States to implement the measures set out in paragraph 34 of its resolution 68/147 and:

(*a*) To take effective and appropriate legislative and other measures to prohibit, prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings, including harmful practices in all situations, and to strengthen international, national and local cooperation and mutual assistance in this regard;

(*b*) To exercise due diligence, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against all children and end impunity, and provide protection as well as universal access to comprehensive social, physical and mental health and legal services and counselling for all victims and survivors, to ensure their full recovery and reintegration into society and, bearing in mind the importance for all children to live free from violence, to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against all children through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination and monitoring and evaluation;

(*c*) To address the gender dimension of all forms of violence against children and incorporate a gender perspective in all policies adopted and actions taken to protect children against all forms of violence, acknowledging that girls and boys face varying risks from different forms of violence at different ages and in different situations;

19. *Reaffirms* that violence against children is never justifiable and that it is the duty of States to protect children, including those in conflict with the law, from all forms of violence and human rights violations and to exercise due diligence to prohibit, prevent and investigate acts of violence against children, eliminate impunity and provide assistance to the victims, including preventing revictimization;

20. *Strongly condemns* the abduction of children, and calls upon all States to take all the appropriate measures to secure their unconditional release, rehabilitation and reintegration and their reunification with their families;

21. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to advance the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children and to continue to promote the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, including through her regional and thematic consultations and field

[30] Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.

[31] Ibid., vol. 1015, No. 14862.

missions, and to continue the effective and independent performance of her mandate set out in resolution 62/141, as well as thematic reports addressing emerging concerns, such as the risks associated with information and communications technologies for the protection of children from violence;

22. *Also notes with appreciation* the adoption of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[32] encourages States to take effective measures for their dissemination and implementation, as appropriate, and invites relevant United Nations actors to support Member States, where appropriate, to this end through concerted efforts;

Promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations

23. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 40 to 48 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to promote and protect all human rights of all children, to implement evidence-based programmes and measures that provide them with special protection and assistance, including access to health care and inclusive and quality education and social services, to consider implementing voluntary repatriation, reintegration where appropriate and feasible, family tracing and family reunification, in particular for children who are unaccompanied, and to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration;

24. *Calls upon* all States to ensure, for children belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups, including migrant children and indigenous children, the enjoyment of all human rights, as well as access to health care, social services and education, on an equal basis with others and to ensure that all such children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children and those who are victims of violence and exploitation, receive appropriate protection and assistance;

Migrant children

25. *Reaffirms* the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrant children, regardless of their migration status, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrant children, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

26. *Expresses the commitment* to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, and to provide for their health, education and psychosocial development, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in policies of integration, return and family reunification;

Children and the administration of justice

27. *Encourages* continued regional and cross-regional efforts, the sharing of best practices and the provision of technical assistance in the field of juvenile

[32] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/18.

justice, and notes in this regard the initiative to convene a world congress on juvenile justice in Geneva from 26 to 30 January 2015;

28. *Takes note with appreciation* of Human Rights Council resolution 25/6 of 27 March 2014 on the rights of the child: access to justice for children, and recalls in this regard the thematic report entitled "Promoting restorative justice for children", issued by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in 2013;

29. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 49 to 57 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to respect and protect the rights of children alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law, as well as children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law;

30. *Encourages* States to develop and implement a comprehensive juvenile justice policy to protect and address the needs of children in contact with the law, with a view to promoting, inter alia, crime prevention programmes, the use of alternative measures, such as diversion, restorative justice and community-based programmes that focus on the rehabilitation and reintegration of the child, and ensuring compliance with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, as well as to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

31. *Reaffirms* paragraph 58 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to prevent, criminalize, prosecute and punish all forms of sale and trafficking of children, including for the purposes of removal of organs of the child for profit, child slavery, sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution and child pornography, with the aim of eradicating those practices and the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies for these purposes, to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices and take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters them, as well as to address the rights and needs of victims effectively and take effective measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

Children affected by armed conflict

32. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 59 to 70 of its resolution 68/147, and condemns in the strongest terms all violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict, and in this regard urges all States and other parties to armed conflict that are engaged, in contravention of applicable international law, including humanitarian law, in the recruitment and use of children, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, acknowledging that sexual violence in these situations disproportionately affects girls, and in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals and related personnel, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end them;

33. *Recalls*, in accordance with international humanitarian law, that indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including children, are prohibited and that civilians shall not be the object of attack, including by way of reprisal or disproportionate attacks, condemns such practices resulting in the killing and

maiming of children, and demands that all parties immediately put an end to such attacks;

34. *Urges* States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society to give serious attention to, and to protect and assist child victims of, all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the First to Fourth Geneva Conventions;[33]

35. *Calls upon* States to protect children affected by armed conflict, in particular from violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and to ensure that they receive timely, effective humanitarian assistance, noting the efforts taken to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators, and calls upon the international community to hold those responsible for violations accountable, inter alia, through the International Criminal Court;

36. *Remains deeply concerned*, however, over the lack of progress on the ground in some situations where parties to armed conflict continue to violate with impunity the relevant provisions of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict;

37. *Expresses deep concern* about attacks, as well as threats of attacks, in contravention of applicable international law against schools and/or hospitals, and protected persons in relation to them, welcomes the publication of the guidance note on Security Council resolution 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011 on attacks on schools and hospitals by the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and notes the adoption of Security Council resolution 2143 (2014) of 7 March 2014;

38. *Welcomes* in this regard the "Children, not soldiers" campaign initiated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations Children's Fund, in collaboration with other United Nations partners, aimed at ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children by the armed forces concerned by 2016, and requests the Special Representative to report on progress in her next report to the General Assembly;

III

Progress achieved and challenges in protecting children from discrimination and overcoming inequalities in the light of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

39. *Reaffirms* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein, while bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention;

40. *Recognizes* that the full realization of children's rights requires the adoption and implementation of comprehensive laws, policies and programmes for

[33] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

all children, taking into account the right of the child to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting him or her, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with his or her age and maturity;

41. *Also recognizes* that financial and material poverty, or conditions directly and uniquely imputable to such poverty, should never be the only justification for the removal of a child from the care of his or her parents or primary caregivers, for receiving a child into alternative care or for preventing his or her reintegration, but should be seen as a signal for the need to provide appropriate support to the family;

42. *Expresses its concern* that children with disabilities, particularly girls, are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, including sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and maltreatment or exploitation;

43. *Calls upon* States parties to respect and ensure the rights set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto and to take all appropriate measures to ensure that all children are protected against all forms of discrimination, violence, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation and traditional, customary harmful practices, which can be harmful to the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development;

44. *Calls upon* all Member States to take all appropriate measures to safeguard the realization of the rights of the child in a manner conducive to his or her fullest possible social inclusion and individual development;

45. *Encourages* States to consider the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights[34] in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes to implement the post-2015 development agenda;

46. *Recognizes* that, in order to further the positive impacts achieved through the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Millennium Development Goals, the post-2015 development agenda will need to consider people living in poverty and in vulnerable situations as well as the most marginalized and excluded populations, including children, which are most at risk and in need of protection;

47. *Also recognizes* that children may face additional barriers in accessing justice, and reaffirms the duty of States to respect and ensure an effective remedy and access to justice for each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind;

48. *Calls upon* all States to include the relevant provisions to protect children from discrimination and overcome inequalities and, in particular:

(*a*) To take all necessary and effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination motivated by intolerance or prejudice of any kind;

(*b*) To incorporate special measures in formal and non-formal education and other programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance affecting children;

(*c*) To address the root causes of inequality and remove barriers that prevent children, particularly those who suffer the worst deprivations in society, from

[34] A/HRC/21/39.

accessing education, health care, adequate nutritious food, sanitation, clean water, protection and other services necessary for their survival, growth and development;

(*d*) To take all necessary and effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, rape, sexual abuse, forced sterilization and harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, by enacting and enforcing legislation and, where appropriate, by formulating comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to protect girls, as well as by promoting awareness-raising and social mobilization initiatives for the protection of their rights;

(*e*) To eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and to take measures to address stereotyped gender roles and other prejudices based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes, and to mainstream in this context a gender perspective in all development and human rights policies and programmes related to children and those specific to the girl child;

(*f*) To take measures to collect and disaggregate relevant information, including statistical and research data, as appropriate, in order to identify the barriers faced by children, especially those who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations, in exercising their rights;

(*g*) To develop and strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of data for national statistics on children as far as possible and to use data disaggregated by relevant factors that may lead to disparities and other statistical indicators at the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to develop and assess social and other policies and programmes so that economic and social resources are used efficiently and effectively for the full realization of the rights of the child;

(*h*) To take steps to design and implement preventive and comprehensive anti-bullying measures, including in educational settings, that address bullying and peer-directed aggression against children, which could include the training of educators and family members and also raising awareness of this matter among children;

(*i*) To take all necessary measures to ensure universal access to birth registration of all children immediately after birth, including those living in remote areas, by, inter alia, removing barriers that impede their registration, moving towards the provision of free birth registration, ensuring the existence of a simple, effective, expeditious and accessible birth registration system, including late birth registration, ensuring the right of every child to a name and the right to acquire a nationality, respecting the selection by parents of a name of their own choosing, respecting the child's preservation of his or her identity and, as far as possible, protecting the child's knowing and being cared for by his or her parents;

(*j*) In accordance with article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to continuously raise awareness of the importance of birth registration at the national, regional and local levels, to ensure free or low-fee late birth registration, to ensure that all legal and procedural impediments to the registration of children who reside in a State party are addressed and to ensure that children who have not been registered enjoy their human rights and have access without discrimination to health care, quality education, protection from violence, safe drinking water and sanitation and other basic services;

(*k*) To design and implement programmes to provide pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers with education, including access to quality education, social services and support, to enable them to continue and complete their education and protect them from discrimination, as well as to ensure a healthy and safe pregnancy;

(*l*) To develop and implement educational programmes and teaching materials, including comprehensive evidence-based education on human sexuality, based on full and accurate information, for all adolescents and youth, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the involvement of children, adolescents, youth and communities, and in coordination with women's, youth and specialized non-governmental organizations, in order to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, to eliminate prejudices and to promote and build decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills for the development of respectful relationships based on gender equality and human rights, as well as teacher education and training programmes for both formal and non-formal education;

(*m*) To take all measures necessary to ensure that children enjoy the right to the highest attainable standard of health, in keeping with existing obligations, including by ensuring that all children and adolescents have access to quality, free or affordable, gender-sensitive, appropriate health-care services, including age-appropriate health-care programmes in the area of sexual and reproductive health, taking into account the needs and evolving capacities of the child;

(*n*) To adopt legislative and other appropriate measures, including cross-sectoral approaches, to ensure the full realization by all children of the right to education, including their access to quality education, on the basis of equal opportunity, in a manner conducive to their fullest possible social inclusion and individual development, including through the provision of compulsory primary education that is available free to all and to take all appropriate measures to make all other levels and all forms of education available and accessible to all children without discrimination;

(*o*) To take all appropriate measures to ensure protection and safety for all children, including the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, during and after situations of risk, situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, by adopting and implementing prevention and response programmes, including those related to the recruitment of children by armed forces and armed groups in contravention of applicable international law, to ensure the physical and psychological recovery, family reunification and social reintegration of these children and ensure that such recovery, reintegration and rehabilitation take place in an environment which fosters the well-being, health, self-respect and dignity of the child;

49. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the United Nations system, to strengthen international cooperation to ensure the realization of the rights of the child, including the most marginalized and excluded children, inter alia, by supporting national initiatives that give more emphasis to the development of the most marginalized and excluded children, as appropriate, and by reinforcing international cooperation measures in fields of research or on the transfer of technology such as assistive technologies;

50. *Calls upon* the relevant entities, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and invites the international financial and donor institutions and bilateral donors, to support, when requested, national initiatives, including

development programmes, for the most marginalized and excluded children, financially and technically, as well as to enhance effective international cooperation and partnerships to strengthen knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, with particular attention to policy development, programme development, research and professional training;

IV

Follow-up

51. *Recognizes* the work of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, its increased level of activity and the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative, and, bearing in mind its resolution 63/241 of 24 December 2008 and paragraphs 35 to 37 of its resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996, recommends that the Secretary-General extend the mandate of the Special Representative for a further period of three years;

52. *Decides*:

(*a*) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on the right to education;

(*b*) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

(*c*) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, consistent with paragraphs 58 and 59 of its resolution 62/141, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda, and, in accordance with paragraph 39 of its resolution 68/147, to ensure that the effective performance and the sustainability of the core activities of the mandate of the Special Representative are maintained;

(*d*) To invite the Secretary-General to commission an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty, funded through voluntary contributions and conducted in close cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and offices, including but not limited to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, as well as the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including Member States, civil society, academia and children, and to include good practices and recommendations for action to effectively realize all relevant rights of the child, including supporting the implementation of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and invites

the Secretary-General to submit the conclusions of the study to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

(*e*) To request the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography agenda;

(*f*) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

(*g*) To continue its consideration of the question at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", focusing section III of the resolution entitled "Rights of the child" on the theme "Right to education".

73rd plenary meeting
18 December 2014